



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for providing a covering physician service via a network to a patient who has consented to use the service and who has access to one of a first plurality of patient terminals, the method comprising:

~~informing a patient of a practicing physician of the availability of the plurality of patient terminals and referring the patient to one of the patient terminals upon agreement of the patient;~~

receiving at a call center, the call center enabling any of a ~~first~~ second plurality of health care practitioner terminals to be in audio-visual communication over the network with any of a ~~second~~ the first plurality of patient terminals, a call from the patient at one of the patient ~~terminal~~ terminals and routing the call to an available health care practitioner at one of the health care practitioner terminals so that the available health care practitioner may carry on a two-way conversation with the patient and visually observe the patient; and

permitting the available health care practitioner to make an assessment of the patient and to treat the patient.

Claim 9 (original): A method according to claim 8, further comprising:

receiving information related to the patient at the health care practitioner terminal via the network.

Claim 10 (original): A method according to claim 8, further comprising:

forwarding information related to the patient to the practicing physician via the network following interaction of the patient with the available physician.

Claim 11 (original): A method according to claim 8, further comprising:

forwarding information related to the patient to a health care management system associated with the physician.

Claim 12 (original): A method according to claim 11, wherein the health care management system is a healthcare management organization.

Claim 13 (original): A method according to claim 11, wherein the health care management system is a point of service health care system.

Claim 14 (original): A method according to claim 11, wherein the health care management system is a preferred provider organization.

Claim 15 (original): A method according to claim 8, wherein the health care practitioner is a nurse practitioner.

Claim 16 (original): A method according to claim 8, wherein the health care practitioner is an internist.

Claims 17-44 (cancelled).

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